

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 8 was objected to for the presence of the term “downloads” in claim 8. With regard to the use of this term in claim 8, it should be noted that, in the description of the third embodiment of the present invention, it is stated, “the programs created by JAVA (registered trademark) or the like are downloaded into a software section. If the downloaded application software 8 includes key backlight application setting lighting color data 9 and key backlight application setting lighting position data 10, a keypad backlight lighting control function 4 refers to these data,” (specification, page 12, lines 6-12). Although the term “download” is not defined in the specification, it is common knowledge to those of ordinary skill in the art that this term refers to obtaining programs or other software from a source external to the device to which the software in question is downloaded. In order to make this clear, however, in claim 8, the term “downloads” has been changed to the phrase “obtains, from a source external to said key input device.” It is clear from Fig. 5 that the application software 8, including key backlight application setting lighting color data 9 and keypad light application setting lighting position data 10, is included in the software programs 21, and the specification indicates that those software programs are stored in the first storage section 15a, which in turn is included in the key input device 11, (specification, page 6, lines 11-20; page 7, lines 19-20; Figs. 1 and 5). The objection to claim 8 is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshida, U.S. Patent No. 6,761,461. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to provide, in part, for, “[a] key input device comprising: ... key backlight lighting control means for changing a lighting color and a lighting position of said key backlight so that backlights are lighted for each set of keys that can be used for each character input mode of the plurality of character input modes in accordance with switching of character input modes.” Antecedent basis for the amendment to claim 1 is found in the specification, for example, on page 7, lines 9-18, and on page 9, lines 4-16.

In supporting the contention by the Examiner that the lighting position of the key backlight is found in Yoshida, the Examiner indicates that the lighting position “can be broadly interpreted as red LED as a first position & green LED as second position,” (Office Action, page 3, lines 9-10). However, the use of two different color LEDs to provide a light source for lighting plural buttons

from their backsides, (see Office Action, page 3, lines 2-7), is not equivalent to the added feature of amended claim 1 indicating that the lighting position causes backlights to be lighted for each set of keys that can be used for each character input mode. There is no disclosure, teaching, or suggestion in Yoshida that selected keys are lighted by backlights for a particular character input mode, as claimed in independent claim 1.

Since claims 2-4 and 9 are directly or indirectly dependent upon independent claim 1, they are allowable over Yoshida for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 1 over Yoshida.

Claims 1, 2, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sunga Mitsuhide, JP 2001-217904. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In support of the rejection of claim 1, the Examiner indicates that there is disclosed a “lighting control means for changing a lighting color of the key backlight in accordance with switching of character input modes,” (Office Action, page 4, paragraph 4, lines 11-12). However, again, there is no indication by the Examiner that selected sets of keys are backlighted for character input modes, as claimed in independent claim 1.

Since claims 2 and 9 are directly or indirectly dependent upon claim 1, they are allowable over Sunga Mitsuhide for the same reasons recited with respect to the allowability of independent claim 1 over Sunga Mitsuhide.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura, U.S. Patent No. 6,762,740, in view of Parker et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,975,711. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner admits that Kimura fails to disclose “control means for changing a light color and a lighting position of the key backlight,” (Office Action, page 6, lines 3-4). However, the Examiner indicates that, “Parker et al. teaches a common backlight assembly including separate LEDs (22; e.g., Figure 3) connected with the light guide / light conducting panel (17), where each LED represents a lighting position,” (Office Action, page 6, lines 6-8). Again, Parker et al. does not disclose the selection of a set of keys to be backlighted for a character input mode, as claimed in independent claim 1.

Since claims 2-9 are directly or indirectly dependent upon independent claim 1, they are allowable over Kimura in view of Parker et al. for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 1 over Kimura in view of Parker et al.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

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